

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-30 are pending, and all stand rejected. In the response, no claims have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-30 are presented for reconsideration.

On page 3, the Official Action rejects claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gwon (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0016655) in view of Warrrier (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,809). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Gwon teaches a network wherein a home agent (HA) within a network forwards packets of information to a foreign agent (FA) which the mobile node (MN) is currently communicating with. Gwon teaches switching FA's but does not teach switching HA's. In similar art, Warrier suggest a system having multiple HA's. Each home network is assigned its own HA but does not switch HA's.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent ... wherein the new home agent after the change forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node to the care-of-address.

Claim 1 relates to the changing of the home agent (HA). Specifically, the HA is a router on the home network of the mobile node (MN). The HA takes packets that are directed to the home address of the MN and then forwards the packets to the MB's current care-of-address. Specifically, as the MN moves through the network, a new HA is selected based on the location of the MN. Thus, when the MN changes to a new HA, then the new HA forwards the packets directed to the home address to the MN to its care-of-address. This feature is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and furthermore supported on page 16, lines 1-25 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

On page 4, the Official Action admits that Gwon fails to disclose the selecting from a belonging HA to a new HA. The Official Action then cites Fig. 2 of Warrier where a plurality of HA's (18, 18A and 18B) are shown. In Fig. 2, home network 14 communicates with HA 18. Thus, home network 14 is assigned to only HA 18 and not to 18A or 18B (18A and 18B may be assigned to other distinct home networks). This feature is at least found in Col. 5, line 55 to

Col. 6, line 3 of Warrier ("*plurality of home agents 18, 18A and 18B ... one home agent will be usually assigned to its own home network, such as network 14 in Fig. 2 ... it forwards packets of data from the WAP server and source computer 12 to the foreign agent 16 for transmission ... to the mobile node 10*"). Thus, Warrier suggests HA 18 forwarding messages directed to the devices in home network 14 to MN 10 via FA 16. Warrier, however, does not suggest changing from its belonging home agent (HA 18) to a new home agent (18A or 18B). Warriers' system does not change from a belonging HA to a new HA. Thus, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiners interpretation of Warrier.

Applicants' claim 1 is different then the combination of Gwon and Warrier, because the MN is able to change to a new HA ("*... a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent ... wherein the new home agent after the change forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node to the care-of-address*"). This feature is at least supported in Applicants' Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. In Applicants' Figs. 1 and 2, MN 10 (as it moves through the network), changes from HA 11 to HA 14. This change, for example, may be made due to the communication delay between the MN and its current HA. In Fig. 1, MN 10 is in position 13 of the network and therefore communicates with HA 11 (because 10 and 11 are close). In Fig. 2, MN moves from position 13 to position 16 in the network, and therefore changes to new HA 14 (because 10 and 14 are close). This feature is at least supported on Applicants' page 16, lines 1-25 of the specification ("*the home agent 11 sends the mobile node 10 a binding acknowledgement message instructing for a change of home agent*"). Therefore, Applicants change from a belonging HA to a new HA whereas Warrier does not change to a new HA (he stays with the same assigned HA).

It is because Applicants include the feature of "*... a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent ... wherein the new home agent after the change forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node to the care-of-address*", that the following advantages are achieved. An advantage is the ability to switch HA's based on the MN current location in the network. Switching to an HA which is closer in the network, allows more efficient communication from the MN's home network to its current location. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Independent claims 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 28 have similar features to claim 1. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

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Dependent claims 2-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-18, 20-27 and 29-30 include all the features of the claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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